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OUELLETTE, JONATHAN P				
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3629				
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03/24/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/734,811

Applicant(s)

BHAN ET AL.

Examiner

Jonathan Ouellette

Art Unit

3629

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8 and 10-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8 and 10-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 7, 9, and 15-18 have been cancelled; therefore, Claims 1-6, 8, and 10-14 are currently pending in application 10/734,811.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
3. **Claims 1-6, 8, and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gal et al. (WO 01/52106 A2).**
4. As per **independent Claim 1**, Gal discloses a method of selectively distributing invitations for a plurality of events (Abstract), the method comprising the steps of: storing event information about each of a plurality of events (C3 L8-11, the user creates a message and provides profile information – the message would inherently be saved in order to do a query on members), wherein the event information for each of the plurality of events includes one or more corresponding invitee selection criteria (C3 L8-15, profile information); storing member information for each of a plurality of members (C3 L8-15, database of recipients); **comparing the stored event information and the stored member information to identify all**

matches between the stored event information and the stored member information (profile match done by server – by comparing stored profile information, pgs 2-3); storing match information about all of the identified matches, wherein for each of at least some of the members among the plurality of members the stored match information identifies multiple events among the plurality of events that were detected for that member (pgs.5-6, Fig.5, multiple invitations stored per user profile/key number); based on the stored match information, generating and sending an electronic invitation message to the electronic mailbox of each member of the plurality of members for which matches are identified in the stored match information (C2 L11-13, C3 L8-15, C5 L6-12, C6 L7-13)(C3 L8-15, C4 L5-10), wherein each electronic invitation message invites its corresponding recipient to the events for which matches were detected for that corresponding recipient (Invitations, Fig.4, C5 L26-27).

5. Gal fails to expressly disclose receiving an “e-mail” as described by the applicant, wherein each of the plurality of members has a corresponding electronic mailbox for receiving electronic communications for storage and later retrieval by that member.
6. However, Gal does disclose sending invitations which can be done by “e-mail” (pg.4 L8), and it would have been obvious to use a variety of available e-mail formats available at the time the invention was made to include an e-mail system that included an electronic mailbox for receiving electronic communications for storage and later retrieval by that member, for the purpose of providing customers with a wide variety of formats for receiving sent messages.

7. Furthermore, Gals fails to expressly disclose sending “all of” the matching events/invitations in one e-mail to the user.
8. However, Gal does disclose combining event information by user/key number (pg.5), and Gal also discloses electronically sending invitation information to users (pg.4).
9. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included sending “all of” the matching events/invitations in one e-mail to the use in the system disclosed by Gal, for the advantage of providing a method of invitation delivery with the ability to save system resources for both the user and the sender, by combining information sent. (See KSR [127 S Ct. at 1739] “The combination of familiar elements according to known methods is likely to be obvious when it does no more than yield predictable results.”).
10. As per **independent Claim 6**, Gal discloses a method of selectively distributing invitations for a plurality of events (Abstract), the method comprising: storing event information about each of a plurality of events (C3 L8-11, the user creates a message and provides profile information – the message would inherently be saved in order to do a query on members), wherein the event information for each of the plurality of events includes one or more corresponding invitee selection criteria (C3 L8-15, profile information); storing member information for each of a plurality of members (C3 L8-15, database of recipients), wherein the member information for each of the plurality of members includes one or more member preferences (C3 L8-15, C5 L6-12, C6 L7-13); comparing the stored event information and the stored member information to determined which events among the plurality of events each of the plurality of members should be invited to (profile match done by server – by

comparing stored profile information, pgs 2-3) based on (a) matches between the member information and the at least one invitee selection criterion for each of the plurality of events and (b) matches between the event information and the at least one member preference for the respective members (C2 L11-13, C3 L8-15, C5 L6-12, C6 L7-13); storing invitation information indicating which events among the plurality of events each of the plurality of members should receive an invitation to, wherein for each of at least some of the members among the plurality of members the stored invitation information identifies multiple events among the plurality of events that were detected for the member (pgs.5-6, Fig.5, multiple invitations stored per user profile/key number); and based in the stored invitation information, generating and sending an electronic invitation message to each member of the plurality of members identified in the stored invitation information for receiving an invitation, wherein each electronic invitation message invites its corresponding recipient to the events identified for that recipient in the invitation information (Fig.4, pg.5, using tables 98 and 100 - electronic message)

11. Gal fails to expressly disclose sending/generating/receiving an “e-mail” as described by the applicant, wherein each of the plurality of members has a corresponding electronic mailbox for receiving electronic communications for storage and later retrieval by that member.
12. However, Gal does disclose sending invitations which can be done by “e-mail” (pg.4 L8), and it would have been obvious to use a variety of available e-mail formats available at the time the invention was made to include an e-mail system that included an electronic mailbox for receiving electronic communications for storage and later retrieval by that member, for

the purpose of providing customers with a wide variety of formats for receiving sent messages.

13. Furthermore, Gals fails to expressly disclose sending “all of” the matching events/invitations in one e-mail to the user.
14. However, Gal does disclose combining event information by user/key number (pg.5), and Gal also discloses electronically sending invitation information to users (pg.4).
15. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included sending “all of” the matching events/invitations in one e-mail to the use in the system disclosed by Gal, for the advantage of providing a method of invitation delivery with the ability to save system resources for both the user and the sender, by combining information sent. (See KSR [127 S Ct. at 1739] “The combination of familiar elements according to known methods is likely to be obvious when it does no more than yield predictable results.”).
16. As per Claim 2 and 11, Gal discloses wherein the one or more corresponding invitee selection criteria comprises an area of practice (Fig.4, Occupation).
17. As per Claim 3 and 12, Gal discloses wherein the one or more corresponding invitee selection criteria for each of the plurality of events are selected by a sponsor of the respective event (C3 L8-15, user creates message with profile).
18. As per Claim 4 and 13, Gal discloses wherein the one or more corresponding invitee selection criteria comprises an identifier that uniquely identifies an individual member (C5 L6-12, e-mail address).

19. As per Claim 5 and 14, Gal discloses wherein the one or more corresponding invitee selection criteria comprises a list of identifiers, each of which uniquely identifies an individual member (e-mail address, web page).
20. As per Claim 8, Gal discloses wherein, in the comparing step, a decision to invite a given member to a given event requires (a) a match between the member information for the given member and the at least one invitee selection criterion for the given event and (b) a match between the event information for the given event and the member preference for the given member.
21. As per Claim 10, Gal discloses wherein, in the comparing step, a decision to invite a given member to a given event requires (a) a match between the member information for the given member and the at least one invitee selection criterion for the given event and (b) a match between the event information for the given event and the member preference for the given member.

Response to Arguments

22. Applicant's arguments filed 12/14/2007, with respect to Claims 1-6, 8, and 10-14, have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s)/basis of rejection.
23. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).
24. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS

of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

25. The Applicant is directed to the revised rejection above in regards to the submitted arguments.

Conclusion

26. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Ouellette whose telephone number is (571) 272-6807. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8am - 5:00pm.
27. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned (571) 273-8300 for all official communications.
28. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Office of Initial Patent Examination whose telephone number is (703) 308-1202.

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March 27, 2008

/Jonathan Ouellette/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3629